

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
**COUNCIL POLICY**

CURRENT

SUBJECT: STREET NAMES  
POLICY NO.: 600-12  
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 23, 1992

BACKGROUND:

Selection of street names must be done carefully in order to avoid duplication and confusing similarity not only within the City of San Diego but also with other cities and the unincorporated areas of the County. This avoidance of duplication is necessary because of the use of multi-agency, computer-aided dispatching of fire, police and paramedic vehicles. Also, the U.S. Post Office has a policy of delivering mail only to addresses (both house number and street name) assigned by the City with jurisdiction over the area.

PURPOSE:

To establish policy regarding the naming of streets and other rights-of-way.

POLICY:

The City will cooperate with the County and other governmental agencies within the County in the selection and approval of street names within the City. To avoid duplication and confusion with other street names, the City Engineer shall designate a Street Name Coordinator who will maintain records of street names in use and reserved and ensure a proper review of all new street names.

STREET NAME APPROVAL:

1. Generally, the only types of right-of-way that can be named and addressed are those dedicated to public use by the City Council; private streets authorized by a planned development permit; frontage roads relinquished to the City by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans); public roads constructed in public parks, the Port District or other government owned lands; and unnamed roads considered to be dedicated prior to annexation. Other types of right-of-way shall be considered to be an unnamed, non-dedicated private driveway and shall not be addressed or named unless authorized by the City Engineer.
2. All street names, for either public or private streets, shall be approved by the Street Name Coordinator who shall determine that the proposed name is not a duplication of an existing street name and cannot be confused with other street names.
3. New street names are not to be shown on any tentative map or final map until they have been approved by the Street Name Coordinator.

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4. Any street name bearing the name of a recognized community within the City should be restricted to use within that community or to a major street directly related to that community.
5. Proper names of individuals may be used as street names. Only the last name will be used. All such names shall be reviewed by the Street Name Coordinator as outlined above.
6. Streets may be named after City employees who have died in the line of duty. Only the last name will be used. All such names shall be reviewed by the Street Name Coordinator as outlined above. A listing of eligible names shall be made available and maintained by the Street Name Coordinator. All developers with approved tentative maps having five or more streets to be named may be required by the City Engineer to name a portion of their new streets with names from this list.
7. The limits of all streets, public or private, assigned names by the City shall be shown on subdivision maps or dedication plats on file in the City Engineer's Records Center.
8. Private streets, as authorized in Council Policy 600-4, must bear an identifying prefix or suffix in the name. Approved prefixes are "Caminito" for Spanish names and "Ruelle" for French names. Approved suffixes for English names are "Row" and "Square."
9. All public or private streets proposed to be named shall meet the requirements of Council Policy 600-4.

CHANGING EXISTING STREET NAMES:

1. Street Name Changes shall be accompanied by a petition circulated to 100% of the affected property owners and shall be submitted to the Street Name Change Coordinator in the Engineering and Development Department for processing. An "affected property owner" is considered to be any owner of property where the name of an abutting street is proposed to be changed. Property owners not supporting the name change should indicate by signature on some appropriate document that they have had an opportunity to review the petition. During staff review, the Street Name Change Coordinator will obtain an estimate of the costs involved if the name change is implemented. A report on the proposal will be prepared by City staff and forwarded with the petition.
2. When proposed Street Name petitions contain less than 100% affirmative signatures, a public hearing shall be scheduled at Planning Commission prior to being scheduled for Council action. Notices of the Planning Commission hearing shall be mailed to all affected property owners at least 10 days prior to the hearing.

When proposed street name petitions contain 100% affirmative signatures or involve recently created streets in newly subdivided areas, where no affected properties have been sold or leased,

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the Street Name Change Coordinator may process the name change directly to the City Council without a hearing before the Planning Commission. Affected property owners shall be noticed of the Council hearing in the same manner as for a Planning Commission Hearing.

3. Petitions for street name changes shall be accompanied by an appropriate fee established by the City Manager and approved by Council. Prior to the presentation of the petition to Council, the petitioners shall further deposit, or otherwise guarantee the necessary funds to cover the cost of changing street name signs, freeway directional signs, and other work directly resulting from the proposed name change.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-169951 03/15/1962  
Amended by Resolution R-210637 05/16/1974  
Amended by Resolution R-258273 04/18/1983  
Amended by Resolution R-281109 11/23/1992